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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/577,515	06/29/2007	Pier Carlo Bigotto	003D.0098.U1(US)	6820
29683 7590 02/14/2008 HARRINGTON & SMITH, PC 4 RESEARCH DRIVE SHELTON, CT 06484-6212				
EXAMINER GILMAN, ALEXANDER				
ART UNIT 2833		PAPER NUMBER		
MAIL DATE 02/14/2008		DELIVERY MODE PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/577,515

Applicant(s)

BIGOTTO, PIER CARLO

Examiner

Alexander D. Gilman

Art Unit

2833

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 April 2006.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 15-17 is/are rejected.
7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-14 and 18 is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 4/27/06 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/27/06

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 15 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 15 includes "characterized in that said clamp is as claimed in Claim(s) 15."

The claim refers to itself.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wu.

With regard to claim 1, Wu (US 5,961,351) disclose a clamp (50) for gripping cables issuing from an electric connector , the clamp comprising two jaws (57, 60) movable with respect to each other between a parted open position and a closed position gripping said cables; and fastening means(54) for fitting the clamp to an insulating casing of said electric connector ; retaining means (59, 62) being provided to keep said jaws in said closed position; characterized in that said retaining means are formed in one piece with said jaws.

Claims, 1, 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by German Patent DE 31 08744 (inventor Weiland et al).

With regard to claim 1, German Patent DE 31 08744 (inventor Weiland et al) disclose a clamp (2) for gripping cables issuing from an electric connector , the clamp comprising two jaws (9,10) movable with respect to each other between a parted open position and a closed position

Art Unit: 2833

gripping said cables; and fastening means (by interference friction forces) for fitting the clamp to an insulating casing of said electric connector; retaining means (15) being provided to keep said jaws in said closed position; characterized in that said retaining means are formed in one piece with said jaws.

With regard to claim 15, German Patent DE 31 08744 (inventor Weiland et al) disclose electric connector comprising:

- an insulating casing (1),
- a number of cables (3) issuing from said insulating casing (2), and
- a clamp (2) for gripping said cables (wires of 3) and fitted to said insulating casing.

With regard to claim 16, Weiland et al disclose hinge means (living hinge) for fitting said clamp to said insulating casing in rotary manner.

With regard to claim 17, Weiland et al disclose that said insulating casing (1) comprises reference means (12, 13) engaged at least partly by a portion of said clamp (2) to keep the clamp in a fixed angular position with respect to said insulating casing.

Claims, 1, 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Castaldo

With regard to claim 1, Castaldo (US 5,934,931) disclose a clamp for gripping cables issuing from an electric connector, the clamp comprising two jaws (42,44) movable with respect to each other between a parted open position and a closed position gripping said cables; and fastening means (50) for fitting the clamp to an insulating casing of said electric connector; retaining means (54, 56) being provided to keep said jaws in said closed position; characterized in that said retaining means are formed in one piece with said jaws.

With regard to claim 15, Castaldo discloses electric connector comprising:

- an insulating casing (22),

Art Unit: 2833

- a number of cables (C) issuing from said insulating casing (22), and
- a clamp (44, 42) for gripping said cables (wires of 3) and fitted to said insulating casing.

With regard to claim 16, Castaldo discloses hinge means (48,46) for fitting said clamp to said insulating casing in rotary manner.

With regard to claim 17, Castaldo discloses that said insulating casing (22) comprises reference means (portions of 22 communicating with the respective portions of 42 and 44) engaged at least partly by a portion of said clamp (2) to keep the clamp in a fixed angular position (90 degree regarding a face of 22) with respect to said insulating casing .

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-14, 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

No prior art has been found to anticipate or render obvious the presently claimed subject matter. Specifically, none of the prior art of record discloses the combination of the limitations presented including the elastic parting means pushing the jaws into the open position and specifically disposed (claims 2, 18).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander D. Gilman whose telephone number is 571 272-2004. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Art Unit: 2833

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571 272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Alexander D Gilman/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2833

2/01/2008